

University of Michigan Law School

University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository

UMLS Alumni Survey Class Reports

University of Michigan Law School Alumni
Survey Project

Class of 1969 Fifteen Year Report Alumni Comments

University of Michigan Law School

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.law.umich.edu/alumni_survey_reports



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, "Class of 1969 Fifteen Year Report Alumni Comments" (1985).

This Response or Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Michigan Law School Alumni Survey Project at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in UMLS Alumni Survey Class Reports by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.

RESPONSES FROM THE MEMBERS OF
THE CLASS OF 1969
TO THE LAST QUESTION ON SURVEY ASKING FOR
"COMMENTS OF ANY SORT ABOUT YOUR LIFE
OR LAW SCHOOL OR WHATEVER"

* * * * *

I have taken a disability retirement from Justice (Crim. Div., OCR) and look forward to reassessing occupational and professional goals, resources and areas of interest.

This may include minimal civil representation and teaching (e.g., structure and growth of organized crime in America) for "criminal justice" curriculum at community college level.

I have had the good fortune of having over the years law students work with me on different client matters during the school year. With only minor exceptions I have found this process to be mutually advantageous.

I believe that a four year law school program may make sense, with a requirement that for at least one year the law student work with other attorneys in private or public practice. I believe this would have a positive value for both lawyer and law student. The law student can see the "real" world, and the lawyer can pick up on the student's idealism and energy.

My law school experience was enjoyable and useful. It was short on the practical aspects of being a practicing lawyer, but "practical" courses were regarded as the province of 3rd rate "Trade School" type law schools in those days. There seemed to be almost a pride in the U of M law grad's ignorance of the mundane practical aspects of being a lawyer. We were to learn how to "think" which was admirable and appropriate, but ignorance of legal document drafting and trial practice & procedure put us at a disadvantage when competing with people who had learned these things in law school. Hopefully these practical aspects of the law can be made available to students who desire them.

Much of this questionnaire does not apply to my career, since I've been in business for the past few years. I'm president of a large forest products company and feel my legal education and law practice has been the "sine qua non" of my success.

I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the Law School. I regard my years there as the most significant in my life in instilling in me an ability to think clearly and precisely. I also feel grateful to the faculty for inculcating in me the traditions of a truly noble profession.

Unfortunately, time constraints (the bane of every lawyer's existence) prevents me from devoting as much time to answering this as I should take.

Sometimes, we are so enmeshed in resolving the daily problems of our clients that we don't have the chance to step back and view the process from a more "Olympian" perspective.

I feel the law school did a good job training my analytical processes but was not very helpful in integrating separate subject areas which must be blended in addressing specific client problems. Lack of practical (mathematical) application of tax concepts in school hampered my initial years of practice. More seminars (senior year courses) with a practical bent would have been helpful.

I have never regretted for a moment my decision to practice law. I thoroughly enjoyed my days at U of M Law School and continue to enjoy the law. The variety is perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of a legal career.

The only aspect of my career that I am dissatisfied with is the pressure the practice of charging by the hour puts an attorney under. I have noticed that both doctors and lawyers often work harder than they should in order to increase their income.

The one criticism I have of law school was that it seemed to instill in us the feeling that large law firms were better than small or medium size firms. Professor Wellman was an exception to generality. He once told me, "There is no such thing as a small problem--only small minds looking at a problem." I have often recalled his words and put them to good use in my own career.

Law School was difficult and competitive but prepared me for the competition in private practice.

1) Most new attorneys appear to be guilty of one of the two extremes: either 1) they are so anxious to go to trial (and dazzle the world with their "obvious genius") that they over-value their client's case, pass up fair offers of settlement and thus, ignore the needs of their clients in favor of their own ego trip; or 2) they are so insecure in their trial skills that they will avoid going to trial at all costs, including selling short their client in negotiations. Someplace along the way law schools should explain to law students that it is the client's money they are dealing with in negotiations. The lawyer's ego or fears should not be one of the elements satisfied by the settlement.

2) Most new attorneys are so caught up in protecting the "rights" of their client that they often overlook the needs of their client. The example I see on a regular basis is the attorney representing the alcoholic client, who defends his client's "rights" to the end, but never bothers to suggest to the client that it might be in his best interests to seek professional help for his alcoholism.

Michigan Law was an incredible experience. Life is great--the lawyer aspect of it being merely a slightly distasteful way to earn a living. Good luck.

I did not attend law school with intent to practice--I simply condescended to a strong (domineering) parental wish to have a "member of the bar" in the family--except for the intellectual stimulation and the fact that it kept me out of the army during the Vietnam war I really strongly disliked studying law and law school. In fact I particularly do not like lawyers--

Not bad. Those Tigers are something else, right!

To clarify possible confusion, I will make the following remarks about certain questions herein.

..... My father is Puerto Rican and my mother Caucasian. My features are primarily Caucasian and I've never experienced racial discrimination.

..... I presently work as a part-time Colorado County Judge. My salary is based upon having a caseload 80% less than fulltime. Therefore, I also have a small private practice. However, because of the judgeship I cannot handle criminal cases in my private practice.

..... Most of my private practice is domestic because of the limited time available to me in my private practice and the fact short hearings are generally the rule in this type of practice. I hope my judgeship will become fulltime in the near future.

I disliked law school intensely and really didn't belong there. I still do not respect the profession, but the intellectual training I received was useful. So are the letters after my name. I am unable to determine what portion of my dissatisfaction is attributable to the legal profession. I don't believe any portion of it is attributable to the University of Michigan. I also acquired a non-academic, useful, life-long skill in law school. I learned to play racquetball very well.

My personal observations (though not scientifically sampled, but in part based upon several years as head of recruiting for my law firm as well as professional relationships with other attorneys) tend to suggest that a typical U. of M. grad is particularly well-rounded in comparison to graduates from many of the other top national law schools. While I assume there may be numerous explanations or theories as to why this may be true, I certainly hope it continues as I believe the result is both a better lawyer and a more significant contribution to the community.

I strongly urge more focus on developing skills relevant to internal counsel in the public and private sectors, since I believe that the trend away from traditional law firm-style practice is inevitable. In particular, emphasis on general administrative skills and on "consumer of legal services" skills would be valuable.

There should also be more emphasis on improving the legal process--or alternatives to the legal process--as an effective and economical means for the resolution of disputes in an increasingly complex society. There is need for greater awareness of the law as process--from the Derek Bok questions about the human resource allocation implications through no-fault insurance to ADR, small claims court and monkeying around with FRCP 68.

Comments 1969 (4)

A law degree from the University of Michigan is highly regarded and respected in the area where I work.

I feel that my law school education at Michigan prepared me well for the responsible corporate law position that I hold.

GO BLUE!!

Regarding law school, thanks for providing an excellent education!

I still believe that the law school must continue to develop each student's intellectual base so that he or she may be prepared to deal with the continually changing legal problems. Counselling, interviewing, mediation, etc. are only useful skills if the lawyer has a grasp of the substantive law and the analytical process necessary to resolve the problems.

These are difficult questions - I would say ½ hour is not enough time - at least 1 hour is required--
I whipped through it & am not totally sure of my answers -
No where does it get brought out that my education was not continuous - i.e. dropped out in '65 (Peace Corps) - went back in '67 - why, etc.?

My first year was very lonely and unhappy and close to suicidal - my counselor (Joiner) was no help at all - only Allen Smith and Roy Proffitt kept me from going over the edge -
There should be much more psychological support - especially the 1st year for the let-down from not making good grades or the "Review" - "Paper Chase stuff" -

Law School training concentrates too much on academics and appellate law. Learning to analyze problems by asking the right questions and to think logically was the most important part of our training.

My experience at law school was very good. Michigan law graduates I have met over the years have generally been excellent lawyers. Keep up the good work!

Every law student who intends to engage in private practice, especially in business fields, should learn more about how business functions. Books such as "In Search of Excellence" should be required reading. Business lawyers are often called upon to give more input towards solving a problem than mere legal advice. While there is a point beyond which a lawyer should not and, in many situations, cannot go in offering requested "business advice," many lawyers are lacking in this phase of assisting clients -- especially the small and medium size businesses. A lawyer who is considered valuable to the client, practical and possessing of "good judgment" understands and can apply more than basic legal principles and excellent draftsmanship.

I think the Law School was excellent preparation in substantive law for private practice--perhaps, though, it could emphasize the practice courses somewhat more, but care must be taken that the school does not suffer intellectually. I am most happy to be a Michigan graduate in this land of University of Wisconsin & Marquette University "diploma privilege" admittees to the Bar. Graduation from the Michigan Law School is definitely considered a badge of honor--keep up the excellent work!

I value my law school experience greatly. I learned a lot of law. I learned how to think better. I met some marvelous, inspirational people.

I did not learn the first thing about the business of law or the more subtle inter-personal aspects of practicing law successfully. It is possible that these skills cannot be taught at all or that they cannot be efficiently taught to law students in addition to their existing substantive curriculum. That does not, however, lessen their importance.

The most serious problems facing the legal profession today are, in my opinion, (a) that the legal profession fails to deal severely enough with unethical or dishonest practitioners which results in a low view of attorneys; (b) legal specialties, like medical specialties, should be separately licensed with stringent peer-based testing.

Michigan Law School prepares one to be a clerk for a judge but not to be a general attorney.

There should be more emphasis on trial technique and clinical practice at Michigan.

I think it is outrageous that I took a whole year of civil procedure at Michigan and never drafted a pleading or that I took a whole year of wills and estates and never drafted a will. There should be more balance at Michigan Law School between the Socratic method and teaching by doing.

I felt there was not enough faculty-student contact at Michigan.

I enjoy the practice of law very much, probably more than any other profession, calling or occupation I can imagine. I think that says it all.

I regard my law school experience at U of M as invaluable. Preparation for the rigors of business as well as law. There is truth to the concept that "adversity breeds character"--law school was a real challenge and I am better for having had that experience and educational opportunity.

My courses in 1966-69 were not a good preparation for private practice, but an excellent foundation for analytical reasoning and issue resolution. More emphasis on the "practical" approach is necessary to round out the law school experience. An apprenticeship or summer clerking after the second year should be made more readily available, if not mandatory.

While I do not feel that law school in general is a truly intellectually stimulating activity, I have come to appreciate the high caliber of the administration, faculty, and students involved with the University of Michigan Law School at the time I attended and, apparently, now.

Without knowing the specific policies of the University of Michigan Law School, I believe that law schools have breached their responsibilities to young people and society in the last six years by so greatly increasing their numbers of students. The glut of law school graduates has greatly damaged the quality of law practice

(cont'd)

by creating a large group of young attorneys who "hang up their shingle" and are therefore not properly trained and who accept cases/clients for whom they are not qualified at fees which are below the level required to give professional service. I have met numerous young law graduates who, while personally capable enough to practice law, have lost faith in themselves for their inability to find jobs in the legal field, in spite of the fact that it is not their fault. Law schools as a group must tailor their class sizes to the demand for lawyers in our society.

Not all course content should be by case method--it develops the thought/analysis process but unnecessarily confuses legal principles. More practical work experience should be incorporated into the process.

I had always intended to be a lawyer, my father was a lawyer, my undergrad degree pre-law. Six months into law school I knew I'd made a serious mistake. Law school seemed excessively trivial with emphasis placed on exceptions and confusion of primary principles rather than the primary principles. Often the faculty demeaned the students which is also unnecessary. Most were also aloof and isolated. I almost decided on a law career in spite of this but only due to a summer internship at Swift and Company law department. This was the most meaningful legal experience I had during my 3 years.

Lawyers also need to be reoriented to make the legal system work rather than use it to aid their particular client. Chief Justice Burger is absolutely correct and massive changes must occur in legal process - jury selection/size/useage - delay - contingency fees - psychiatric defenses - etc. The legal fraternity must get its act together or lose all public support.

Law School attendance and education--most memorable period of my life.

Although other attorneys make more money--prestige of U of M education, quality of education places us above those attorneys on intellectual basis.

Only regret is that I failed to recognize, in Law School, opportunities and quality of practice in areas other than Blue-Chip Corporate Practice. Seems areas such as Negligence law (P.I.) were neglected or disparaged.

I suggest seminars, panels, etc. demonstrating various types of practice.

While I am having a "comfortable career" I wonder about the social utility of much of what I do. Thousands of dollars are being spent to litigate cases that should never have been filed or should have been settled quickly. Won't society eventually see this activity as a "tax" on the productive capacity of society. We are too litigious and lawyers may be the problem. I cannot justify the \$80,000 I make a year in terms of its benefit to society. Litigating low back pain cases is not a particularly noble undertaking nor is defending an insurance company's right to take 3 days of court and jury time to avoid paying \$1500 in nuisance value in a whiplash case a high calling. But, I have two nice children, I go fishing, and the rose garden is coming along nicely. I respect and admire my law school and my legal education, but, as a profession, what in the hell are we doing?

I enjoyed the survey. Because of my present position as a teacher, I regret that I could not answer all of the questions.

I have positive feelings about my experience at the Law School, and the support that I have received from some of its faculty.

Bear in mind that I practiced for 1 year, retired, and have just started working again after a 13-year vacation.

LAW SCHOOL: Very fine education in terms of subject matter in substantive areas of law. Most professors were fine lecturers and intellectually stimulating. Particularly noticed this when I took PLI Bar Review Course in 1969 and subsequent Continuing Legal Ed. seminars and hear professors from Columbia, NYU, Brooklyn Law, Fordham and other NY area law schools. Law education very weak in terms of practical experience: witness examination & preparation, negotiation mediation, trial techniques, client relations & office operation.

LAW PRACTICE: Bitterly disappointed and disenchanted! Once one gets trapped in a specialty 1 or 2 years out of law school, hard to break out. Have been looking to get commercial litigation position for over 10 years. Loath being a desk lawyer-solicitor! It is as boring as assembly line work at the Ford plant which I did in law school, yet more fatiguing intellectually. This is very far from my goals and dreams when in law school.

Question D-5-f (hiring policies concerning minorities) perhaps does not mean what you intend. If one is against all rules regarding hiring practices he would circle #1. If one loves such regulations and wants them written to force hiring of minorities, he would also circle #1. Since I didn't want to be in the latter group, but am not against men of good will helping minorities without government coercion I circled #4 (I don't care if evil men help minorities).

The skills of a lawyer are social skills. Legal training is necessary, but no amount of legal training can make a 24 year old a good lawyer. Thus, while I feel you did not train me to be a lawyer, I have no criticism.

I am frequently chagrined by members of the faculty use of their position to advocate social policy. When a Law Professor writes as a Law Professor he ought to be giving legal analysis not political argumentation. If he is acting as a politician he ought not to pretend his scholarly position is at all relevant to the weight of his argument. An example - when a congressman uses the 14th Amendment as justification for a Federal program he is a politician. When a Law Professor does it he should acknowledge his legal position is unsound, or at least questionable. Perhaps I wouldn't be critical if the faculty were conservative.

Not sure law school was much help in practice of law. Much of the fault was probably mine in the selection of courses which I made.

A great law school; a great experience - but very intense.

The rank in class should be deleted from a student transcript if the student so requests. If the student needs to indicate rank in class it could be left on, but if not needed it should be optional with the student. To have one's abilities judged by a poor rank in class many years after graduation is blatantly unfair. Such judgments are usually made by someone who was in the top % of a thoroughly inferior law school and who is looking at an excuse to prevent you from getting hired, promoted, or fairly compensated. Rank in class after 10 years or so out of law school should not be anybody's business except the school and the student in most all cases.

John H. Jackson, Jr. taught a great contracts course. White (UCC) & D. A. Kahn (Tax I & II) were also excellent.

My answers should be viewed in light of the absence of any trial work in my personal practice.

I'm very happy with my firm and its lawyers.

I do some law firm administration, but not a great deal. This balance is fine with me.

My wife is a full-time practicing attorney in another firm in our community.

My sense is that the U of M Law School curriculum is about right; no radical change is needed, in my opinion.

I am not a fanatical lawyer. I like to leave my work at the office. Having completed a particularly strenuous but stimulating assignment overseas, I now savor a (more or less) 40-hour week. For me the law, in the form of a J.D. and admission to the Bar, has opened the door for many opportunities to participate in institutional change and to interact with officials and counterparts of some 6-8 different countries. Perhaps some other discipline, such as engineering, would have afforded similar opportunities. I think law school provided only the rudiments and that I quickly thereafter became so specialized that 2/3-3/4 of the course material fell by the wayside. I think the emphasis in legal education should be on processes rather than on substance. The practitioner can pick up the substance on the job. I also cannot restrain myself from expressing my utter loathing for the casebook (Socratic) method. I'm grateful to the law for the doors it has opened but I don't find the law especially interesting. Having rendered some services to individual clients in criminal and civil matters, I find I have no patience for the minutiae of their sordid lives.

Law School did not provide practical guidance for profitably operating a private practice, but it provided a much more valuable substantive and analytical basis upon which to build. I believe the quality education of the U. of M. Law School should not be altered by radical curriculum changes.

I am one of these people who have found law practice quite a bit more enjoyable and satisfying than law school, where I was pretty much bewildered by it all until about the third year.

I am very proud of U of Mich and the education I received. I am pleased with the talents I obtained in Law School and have continued to develop.

I am increasingly convinced that writing clearly is the single most important skill a lawyer can possess. I don't believe the Law School was an environment in which that skill could be improved (it certainly was not a place where it could be developed--that has to occur in high school or before). I remember U of M as a place where professors address large concepts in an oblique fashion, before enormous classes of nervous students. A student of law needs to have an intensive, time consuming review of written legal analyses to really learn his trade, and that does not happen (or didn't happen when I was there) at UM. I mean spending 3 hours with one student going over not a final exam, but a paper written as part of a course. In a sense I think some of my professors taught the easy way, through the so-called Socratic method.

The practice of law is in grave trouble in the United States, but that is a function not of U of M but of the many law schools that are flooding the country with mediocre professionals.

- 1. I loved law school and wish I could have spent more time on coursework and discussing same with peers.
2. Law schools tend to attract brash, conceited young people. Some character building would help.
3. Teach the "art" of drafting - from correspondence to contracts.

- 1. Too many poorly trained lawyers:
a. Need more rigorous & comprehensive law school training. Let's not kid ourselves. Law school is a pushover compared to our "brethren" (always our work, never theirs) in the medical, engineering and accounting professions.
b. Need more "hands-on" training before admission to bar. i.e. First 3 full years academic law as now. Then 1 or 2 years mandatory clerkship (like England and Canada) and then (after 5 years) Bar exam.
c. Need more rigorous bar exams.
d. Need more non-legal training, especially in mathematics & sciences & foreign languages as prerequisite to admission to law school. Most lawyers are mathematical & scientific illiterates.
2. Too much emphasis on lawyers and judges as influencing political, social & economic policy of the nation and community. Legal profession judges are anti-democratic and this is not good. The law schools encourage this too much.

Relative to decreasing offerings, I can't think of any class which I took which was a total waste--offerings should be available to meet the interests and demands of students.

Sorry I was so rushed in filling this out. Law school was very rewarding and satisfying for me.

The primary function of law school should remain the teaching of substantive law.

The U of M did a good job of training lawyers when I attended and probably still does.

I firmly believe that each leg of a "tripod" is necessary for a client to receive effective legal services, to benefit from them, and to perceive that he or she is benefiting from them. These legs are:

1. Legal scholar ability.
2. Legal technical ability.
3. Business management ability - "managing the law office."

I had very, very high quality instruction in Item 1. But, sad to say, I received NO training in either Item 2 or Item 3.

Knowledge of the theories of the law is necessary, but so is knowledge of what documents are necessary, how to prepare them, and where they are to go. Or at least knowledge of which procedural book to review. The "practical" aspect of legal training in law school was nearly non-existent during the late 1960s, and there is still far, far too little of it.

Just as important is the "management" of the law office, whether it be a gigantic law firm, a government agency, a corporate legal department, or a store-front law office, such as mine. If the law office is poorly managed, it will deliver substandard, even defective, legal services. I believe, with the fervor of a religious convert, that each lawyer should understand the business underpinnings of his "office" in order to deliver quality legal services.

In addition, each attorney needs to be able to communicate effectively. In the publicity-conscious society in which we live, a wrong nuance, communicated to the mass media, can destroy a client far, far more effectively than any court decision.

I urge, even plead, with the law school to institute, and require, several courses in drafting legal papers, business/law office administration, and communication. I suggest that perhaps the courses in business/law office administration and communication could be taken in undergraduate work, and then passed by "examination" administered at the law school and graded by law school professors.

I would not trade my experience at U of M Law School for anything.

I tend to agree with Bok that law schools skim off the cream to no very useful purpose.

Michigan is a first class law school, despite its mediocre football teams.

Legal analysis and effective communication (both written and oral) about complicated legal issues should remain the primary goals.

Too damn many attorneys are glutting this profession and that means too many people are not given the true facts of economic life when considering law and law schooling in their career planning.

Michigan's Bar Exams are not tough enough--true of most other states, except California, Florida, New York, Washington, Texas and Colorado.

(cont'd)

The average income of lawyers should be published by Law Schools in their promotional literature as "Truth in Schooling."

I am disappointed by the public and professional issues. They do not give any sense to strong beliefs which I hold. They are simplistic, academic questions rather than practical.

The questionnaire seems geared to the trial lawyer but does not really address trial practice.....

Although I understand the difficulty of quantifying responses, I suggest that you request more comment on areas of interest to the Law School. I suggest that you ask some practicing attorneys to sample the questionnaire before sending it out.

I'm delighted with the effort and apologetic for the criticism.

I didn't do very well in law school. On the other hand, once I finally talked a first-rate firm into hiring me, I have done well (made partner, well-paid--I am even considered one of the stronger "academic" lawyers in the firm). Chief among the reasons for my undistinguished law school performance was my failure to work very hard. Then, as now, I found many interests competing for my attention. Ever since I joined the firm, however, I have found it easy enough to work hard--much harder than I did in law school. I respect the law school for maintaining high standards and am grateful (it taught the value of quality and helped me land a good job). Otherwise, however, law school made my life miserable for 3 years and didn't prepare me very well for private practice, other than by keeping me penned up with exceptionally able people. Somehow I suspect that the Law School can use the 3 years it has to educate its students better than it does. Better teachers (as opposed to better scholars) probably would help.

Questionnaire makes basic assumptions which are not always valid and will skew statistics - eg. current "employment" being unpaid.

I really do not remember - nor particularly care - about how particular courses and/or other individuals affected my skills in lawyering 10-15 years ago.

This form is geared to (1) employees with very distinct areas of (a) law (b) modes of litigation. Small firm practitioners, managers who practice in public defender or legal services programs, consultants, etc. should find this form difficult to answer. Your listing of law school courses should be generic, i.e., practice, substantive law or remedial courses. Listing courses skews the impact of the responses. Insufficient scope is given to those of us who (1) create, run or teach CLE courses, (2) engage in speaking, consulting, amicus briefs, national organizations, testifying before county, state or national bodies or legislatures, write on law topics, etc.

Many like myself felt the "law school" was skewed towards large firms, judges, etc. and this form continues that impression. It is indicative of a "3 P's" approach -- the perpetuation and preservations of property -- the essentials as I view practice are fundamental skills, a high sense of ethics, a desire to improve your skills (work at your craft) and the ability to do so efficiently or a quality product in an efficient manner.

Life is rich, sweet, and full; and part of the source of my satisfaction is my practice and profession. I am the founding partner (among others) of a small firm in a small town. We make a good, but not great living, enough to afford most of life's pleasures. We work hard, often under pressure and tension, but I still have a fair amount of time for my family - if too little for myself. My clients generally - if not always - trust me and appreciate my efforts, skills and dedication. My partners and I like and respect each other. There are frustrations and disappointments daily, but as I look around at my life and the lives of others, I consider myself very fortunate.

Does any of this trace back to my law school, my college, or my high school? Probably, but I can't say. As I raise my own young children, I find that my philosophy is that values transmitted by the family are primary, and that happy, talented, secure young people will, probably, find the institution and opportunities - and use them well - to lead to satisfying adult lives.

1. The Law School should consider some program utilizing personnel from law firms with 6 to 10 years experience to come to the Law School and explain, and be available to answer questions from law students about the transition from Law School to law firms and private practice.

2. The Law School made a tremendous contribution to my life for which I am deeply appreciative and indebted.

I look on my total law school experience as a critical point in my personal and professional development. I see now that my approach towards problem solving - and structured thinking in general - were very much focused during this period.

For one, with both a JD and an MBA from Michigan, I feel I am well-prepared for almost any business/legal issue I may encounter.

Although I enjoy practicing from my niche at the Justice Dept., becoming a lawyer may have been a mistake. Vietnam was what kept me in Law School; I think now I'm glad it did.

As a society, we expect too much from courts, placing social decisions they cannot make or enforce more broadly, court litigation is so inefficient and unpredictable, we will someday find ourselves with a reformed system and a vast surplus of lawyers.

It distresses me that there seem to be too many laws, regulations and lawyers. Compare CFR in 1969 and now. Yet most of my legal career has been spent in one set of regs or another. It seems to me that most of the regulations I deal with now are well-intentioned attempts to deal with real problems, except that the creeps go ahead and violate them just as they did the older and simpler laws, and small businesses and individuals just ignore the existence of the regs and I get paid to make some of my clients dot every i in their reports. I'm really happiest in those portions of my job that involve making something happen.

Keep up the good work!

1. A good survey!
2. Found the quality of faculty and peer competition of far greater importance to the development of my career than the specific content of courses taken.
3. Enjoy Law Quad publication. Keep up the good work.
4. On balance, I strongly believe I received a better legal education (and I was not an outstanding student) than most of the lawyers I meet in my practice.
5. I wish even greater emphasis had been placed on legal history, philosophy and policy (which includes social and economic issues) than was.
6. My legal education would not have been possible w/o availability of scholarship and loans from the Law School.

Law schools need to move in two directions at the same time. First, there must be much deeper inquiry into theory. Second, some courses (e.g. the pleading and discovery portion of civil procedure, evidence, other aspects of trial practice and business planning) should be taught/learned through hands-on simulations and problems. Unless such methods of inquiry leaven the law school curriculum, law schools will become increasingly irrelevant, except as devices to classify and credential students for entry-level positions.

I really enjoy working in legal publishing and am tired of filling out questionnaires that do not consider this a viable legal career.

Young lawyers I've encountered, both those I've hired and otherwise, have been deficient in good writing skills and to a lesser extent research.

If it is possible to teach something about the human dynamics and expectations of the law, that would be helpful. A little philosophy of the legal system and its role in society.

I am proud to be a lawyer. I am proud of Michigan. Law School was a wonderful experience. It prepared me well to practice law. I cherish many memories of school, students, professors, courses, discussions, arguments and the law quad on a foggy day.

All who were there then made it a wonderful experience.

Looking back on Law School, I am impressed with the quality of the School's preparation of me for a legal career. The legal education was first class!

I do not believe the Law School should try to be a trade school. Instead, the Law School should continue to emphasize an intellectual approach to legal problems and philosophical considerations.

Too many attorneys are being produced in this State!! At present, I am seeing over 30 attorneys who simply cannot pay their debts. This State has a declining population; but more law schools and students are created! Why?

Continuing legal education (unless well supervised) is an abject waste of time. Most speakers are ignorant of the topic.

When I attended law school it was largely undirected. With increased specialization (and higher standards) it would seem that a broad choice of program in law school (for example litigation or office work) might now be appropriate with mandatory courses depending on the student's election. When I attended school I had virtually no idea as to what a lawyer did or what the career choices were short of high visibility choices such as criminal prosecution and defense. Assuming my experience was typical, guidance from the faculty or counselors would be very helpful.

I enjoy being active in Church, community, politics and dealing with people and their problems in general. In that regard, I have enjoyed being a lawyer.

I am very happy to be a judge of District Court because I can now be objective as opposed to being an advocate. I am glad to be rid of the business aspects of small private practice -- on the other hand, I miss the comraderie of a small office.

No job is easy and no life is easy. We are very fortunate in this country and I am happy. Forgive the sentimentality.
